CONTROLLED USE OF DEVICES

ABSTRACT

According to the invention a method and system for selectively
controlling the operation of a device intended by a person is
provided which uses some kind of personal authentication token,
e.g., a JAVACard connected to said device in order to control a
particular type of use or the duration of use of the device, and
- if desired - in order to interrupt the operation of the device
or to delimit the operation when some kind of reason can be
evaluated from some operation type specific or some user-related
data stored in said card which might justify said decision.
According to a preferred aspect of the present invention said
token or, generally spoken, an authentication means is
advantageously a Smartcard and in particular a Java Card, or any
other multi function Smartcard with the capability of downloading
and executing software programs on the card, on which personal
authentication data as well as some kind of account data are
stored. Said account can be a time account in which the duration
of the personal use and/or operation of the device is maintained
and regularly compared to some predetermined time limits admitted
to the user. A large variety of further criteria storable on the
card emerge dependent of the type of the device. (Fig. 1)